

**•ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to livin-derived peptides with pro-apoptotic activity. More specifically, the present invention provides peptides p30-Livin  $\alpha$  and p28-Livin  $\beta$ , derived from Livin  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , respectively, as well as compositions thereof. These herein described peptides display pro-apoptotic activity. Thus, another object of the present invention is the use of the peptides or compositions thereof for the enhancement and/or induction of apoptosis, as well as for the treatment of cancer. Finally, the invention also provides a method of enhancing the sensitivity of cells to death-inducing treatments or agents through the use of the peptides of the invention.